



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**

SAVANNAH DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
P.O. BOX 889  
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA 31402-0889

REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF:

May 30, 2006

Mobile/Savannah  
Planning Center

**JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**US Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District,**  
**Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Coastal Resources Division**  
**and the**  
**South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control**  
**Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management**

**TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:**

**SUBJECT:** Notice of Availability of a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for a Savannah River Basin Drought Contingency Plan Update on the Savannah River in Georgia and South Carolina.

Notice of the following is hereby given:

a. Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, notice is hereby given that the US Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District proposes an update of the March 1989 Savannah River Basin Drought Contingency Plan (SRBDGP).

b. The Savannah District announces the availability of a Draft EA and Draft FONSI to the public concerning the action. Copies of the Draft EA and unsigned FONSI can be obtained either by writing the Savannah District at the following address: US Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District, Mobile/Savannah Planning Center, Attn: Mr. Larry Olliff, Post Office Box 889, Savannah, Georgia 31402-0889, by calling Mr. Olliff at (912)652-5690, or by emailing to: [larry.b.olliff@sas02.usace.army.mil](mailto:larry.b.olliff@sas02.usace.army.mil).

c. Written statements regarding the Draft EA and FONSI for the proposed action will be received at the Savannah District Office until

**12 O'CLOCK NOON, July 3, 2006**

from those interested in the activity and whose interests may be affected by the proposed action.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

The proposed action consists of retaining major components of the 1989 SRBDGP and adding several other features. The discharge restrictions at J. Strom Thurmond Dam would be allowed to transition back to higher flows prior to reaching full pool. Drawdown dates at Hartwell and

Thurmond Lakes would be synchronized. The minimum daily average release at J. Strom Thurmond Dam would be adjusted from 3600cfs to 3800 cfs. The maximum average discharge at J. Strom Thurmond, for the drought levels, would be revised as follows:

<b>Drought Level</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Proposed</b>
1	Public safety information	4,200 cfs weekly
2	4,500 cfs weekly	4,000 cfs weekly
3	3,600 cfs daily targeted	3,800 cfs daily targeted
4	Outflow = Inflow	Outflow = inflow

#### AUTHORIZATION REQUIRED FROM THE STATE OF GEORGIA:

**Coastal Zone Consistency:** Savannah District has evaluated the proposed project and determined that it is consistent with the Georgia Coastal Zone Management Program to the maximum extent practicable. The District will submit the Environmental Assessment to the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Coastal Resources Division in Brunswick, Georgia, who administers that program. The State will review the proposed action and determine whether it concurs that the proposed project is consistent with the State's Coastal Zone Management Program to the maximum extent practicable. Any person who desires to comment or object to Georgia Coastal Zone Management Consistency Certification must do so in writing within 30 days of the date of this notice to the Federal Consistency Coordinator, Ecological Services Section, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Coastal Resources Division, Suite 300, One Conservation Way, Brunswick, Georgia 31520-8687 (telephone (912) 264-7218) and state the reasons or basis for the objections.

#### AUTHORIZATION REQUIRED FROM THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA:

**Coastal Zone Consistency:** Savannah District has evaluated the proposed project and determined that it is consistent with the South Carolina Coastal Zone Management Program to the maximum extent practicable. The District will submit the Environmental Assessment to the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, who administers that program. The State will review the proposed action and determine whether it concurs that the proposed project is consistent with the State's Coastal Zone Management Program to the maximum extent practicable. Any person who desires to comment or object to South Carolina Coastal Zone Management Consistency Certification must do so in writing within 30 days of the date of this notice to the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, Federal Certification Section, 1362 McMillan Avenue, Suite 400, Charleston, South Carolina, 29405 and state the reasons or basis for the objections.

## DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY EVALUATION:

**Environmental Assessment:** Savannah District has prepared a Draft EA and a finding has been made that an Environmental Impact Statement will not be required for this action. The Draft EA is being sent concurrently with this Notice to Federal and State natural resource agencies for review and comment.

**Threatened and Endangered Species:** The District reviewed the most recent information and determined that the proposed action will not affect any federally listed endangered or threatened species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of designated critical habitat of such species. The proposed action is being coordinated with the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act.

**Cultural Resources:** Savannah District evaluated the proposal's potential effects on Cultural Resources. The District believes the proposed changes will have no additional adverse impacts on cultural resources. The proposed action is being coordinated with the Georgia and South Carolina State Historic Preservation Offices under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

**Essential Fish Habitat:** Savannah District evaluated the proposal's potential effects on Essential Fish Habitat. The District believes the proposed changes will have a beneficial effect on essential fish habitat. The proposed action is being coordinated with the National Marine Fisheries Service under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

**Coastal Zone Consistency:** Savannah District has evaluated the proposed project and believes it is in compliance with the Georgia and South Carolina Coastal Management Programs (CMP). The District will submit the Environmental Assessment to the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Coastal Resources Division in Brunswick, Georgia and to the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management in Charleston, South Carolina.

**Public Interest Review:** The decision whether to proceed with the action as proposed will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact, including cumulative impacts, of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both the protection and use of important resources. The benefits which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal will be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors that may be relevant to the proposal will be considered, including the cumulative effects thereof. Among these are economics, general environmental concerns, historic properties, fish and wildlife, recreation, water supply, water quality, energy needs, consideration of property ownership, environmental justice, and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

**Consideration of Public Comments:** The US Army Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Native American Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of the proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the US Army Corps of Engineers in its deliberations on this action. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts to endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of the Environmental Assessment pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

**Comment Period:** Anyone wishing to comment to the Corps on this proposed action should submit comments no later than the end of the comment period shown in this notice, in writing, to the US Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District, Mobile/Savannah Planning Center, Attn: Mr. Larry Olliff, Post Office Box 889, Savannah, Georgia 31402-0889, or by e-mailing the comments to: [larry.b.olliff@sas02.usace.army.mil](mailto:larry.b.olliff@sas02.usace.army.mil).

Any person who desires to comment or object to Georgia Coastal Zone Management Consistency Certification must do so in writing to the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Coastal Resources Division, Federal Consistency Coordinator, Suite 300, One Conservation Way, Brunswick, Georgia 31520-8687.

Any person who desires to comment or object to South Carolina Coastal Zone Management Consistency Certification must do so in writing to the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, Federal Certification Section, 1362 McMillan Avenue, Suite 400, Charleston, South Carolina, 29405.

**Point of Contact:** If there are any questions concerning this Public Notice, please contact Mr. Larry Olliff, US Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile/Savannah Planning Center, at (912)652-5690.

Sincerely,



Leroy Crosby  
Acting Savannah Unit Chief  
Mobile/Savannah Planning Center